

February 16, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPTED**


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Natural History Museum  
of Los Angeles County  
900 Exposition Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Tel 213.763.3301  
Fax 213.746.7538  
lbv@nhm.org

**DR. LORI BETTISON-VARGA**  
President and Director

21 February 16, 2016

  
PATRICK O'GAWA  
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**AUTHORIZE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM FOUNDATION AND APPROVE RELATED  
ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITY PROJECT  
APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
(SECOND DISTRICT)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The recommended actions will authorize an appropriation adjustment and funding agreement with the Natural History Museum Foundation for a grant of \$3.5 million for the implementation of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's Education and Community Facility Project located at the Exposition Park site.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the Project.
2. Determine that in accordance with Section 26227 of the Government Code, the proposed actions will serve public purposes by funding programs necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the County.
3. Approve appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$3.5 million to increase the 2015-16 appropriation in Project and Facility Development Fund from the Various Second District Capital Improvements (Capital Project No. 77044) to fund the Natural History Museum Foundation's implementation of the Education and Community Facility Project.
4. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to execute a funding agreement with the Natural History Museum Foundation in the amount of \$3.5 million and take any other actions and execute any other documents

consistent with and necessary for the implementation of the Education and Community Facility Project.

5. Authorize the Museum of Natural History Foundation to proceed with implementation of the Education and Community Facility Project.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The proposed Education and Community Facility Project (Project) will allow for the expansion of the Natural History Museum's (Museum) current and future education programs. The proposed Project includes the construction of a new education/community room, an outdoor education classroom courtyard; office space; purchase and installation of a new Butterfly Pavilion; and a cohesive landscaping scheme for the Museum's south entrance that will complement the Museum's signature nature gardens at the north entrance. The proposed Project will also serve as the temporary location for the Los Angeles County (County) Constituent Service Center, Community Room, and Second District offices currently located in Exposition Park but being displaced due to the planned demolition of the building in which they are currently located.

#### **Background**

The Museum's entire educational program serves over 227,000 students and teachers each year. Museum programming is developed for pre-kindergarten through high school ages. Depending on the student age group, teachers' programs offer students the opportunity to learn about the history of our planet and life on it - from meteorites to mammals - through interactive stories and hands-on experiences both indoors and outdoors through the Age of Mammals and LA history exhibits and Dinosaur Hall, North American and African classic diorama halls, as well as the Nature Lab and Nature Gardens providing environmental education.

In 1998-99 the Museum purchased and installed one of the first ever Butterfly Pavilions. This temporary facility made of wood struts and shade cloth was intended to last one year but has been utilized for 15 years, much longer than its useful life. This facility allowed the Museum to educate the public through participatory discovery of nature and the importance of preserving habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. The current facility is 15 years old and repair is cost prohibitive. In addition, the popularity of this visitor exploration of nature has necessitated the Museum to relocate and expand the pavilion with queuing area as the existing space can no longer accommodate the current volume of visitor attendance and education programming.

### Proposed Project

One of the highest Museum priorities is to adequately address the educational needs of students and teachers and to expose future generations to the wonders of the natural world. The Museum intends to increase its capacity to accommodate current and future growth of school children and teacher visits. The proposed Project will permit the Museum to expand the educational and school visit programs without impacting the use of public collection space in the current Museum building.

Students arriving at the Museum during the morning hours will begin their learning experiences at a new educational/community area. The proposed Project includes a 2,400 square-foot outdoor education courtyard, a new 6,500 square foot one story building consisting of a 2,100 square-foot education/community room and a 4,400 square-foot office space, a new 3,200 square-foot replacement Butterfly Pavilion, and site landscaping that will complement the Nature Gardens. The new proposed area will allow the museum to improve logistics in order to accommodate larger school group visits especially in inclement weather and serve families and children on weekends.

Site preparation for the proposed Project requires the proposed new Butterfly Pavilion to be relocated adjacent to its current location, along the southern border of the property that the Museum leases from the State. The proposed Butterfly Pavilion will be constructed of metal struts and mesh in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture requirements for insects. The new proposed Butterfly Pavilion interior will have a larger flight area than the current pavilion, which substantially improves and further optimizes the butterfly environment, as well as an entrance and exit antechamber into the flight area, and a slightly smaller store section.

The proposed office and community room space will be utilized for the Museum's educational programs and to conduct informational, educational, and departmental meetings for and with community members on local issues. The proposed office and community room space will also be available as a temporary location for the County's Constituent Service Center, Community Room, and Second District Offices currently located in Exposition Park upon completion of the Project. Due to the imminent construction by the California Science Center of a new building in Exposition Park to serve as the permanent exhibition space for the Space Shuttle Endeavor, the building that currently houses these functions is scheduled to be demolished in 2016. The temporary relocation of these functions to the proposed office and community space will facilitate the communication and distribution of information to constituents, promotion of County programs, and general

enhancement of County services and public engagement. However, in anticipation of continued increases in the use of the Butterfly Pavilion and growth in the Museum's educational and community programming, the entirety of the proposed office and community room space will be fully utilized for Museum operations and programming beginning in December 2020.

To minimize the negative impact on the Museum's revenue, the new Butterfly Pavilion must be completed by mid-April 2016 to release butterflies for the public opening scheduled for mid-May, 2016. The Foundation is prepared to begin site preparation, utilities relocation, and construction upon Board approval.

Exposition Park is a Southern California destination and a valuable community resource that is conveniently located and offers access to a broad range of public and educational services from public and private entities including the California Science Center, the County's Natural History Museum, the California African American Museum, the University of Southern California, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department's Expo Center, the Los Angeles Unified School District Alexander School, and various other entities and State government offices. The proposed Project is in close proximity to public transportation routes, including the new Exposition Light Rail line, and offers ample on-site public parking. The extreme accessibility of this location provides vast opportunities to offer services to the residents of the County.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This proposed Project will implement the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) which directs that we enrich the lives of Los Angeles County residents by providing enhanced services, and effectively planning and responding to economic, social, and environmental challenges.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The estimated cost to purchase and install a new replacement Butterfly Pavilion; construct a new community room, an outdoor education classroom courtyard, and office space; and install a cohesive landscaping scheme is \$3.5 million. The estimated cost includes consultant fees, permits, and a contingency not-to-exceed 15 percent. The total estimated cost of the proposed Project will be funded from Second District Various Capital Improvements.

It is requested that the Board approve the appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$3.5 million to increase the 2015-16 appropriation in Project and Facility Development Fund from the Various Second District Capital Improvements (CP No. 77044).

The proposed funding agreement will authorize a grant in the amount of \$3.5 million to the Foundation for implementation of the proposed Project.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to California Government Code 26227, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors may expend money for projects and/or programs which the Board of Supervisors determines will serve the social needs of the County, and the County may contract with other public agencies, private agencies, non-profit entities, or individuals for those projects and /or programs. The purpose of this proposed Project as described is to contribute funding to serve the social needs of the County in the area of student and teacher education, particularly education about the natural world.

The Los Angeles County Natural History Museum Foundation (Foundation), through its 1994 Agreement between the County and the Foundation, operates and maintains the Museum, the George C. Page Museum and La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park, and the William S. Hart Museum in Newhall.

The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) not for profit entity, which supports the Museum and is authorized to carry out a number of duties and responsibilities, including construction of various additions and improvements to Museum buildings and galleries. It is proposed that the Foundation have the responsibility for contracting for and managing the proposed Project construction as described in this letter.

Upon substantial completion of construction, the proposed Project will become an asset of the County. Construction of the proposed Project will be completed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Building Codes.

The proposed Project is located within the County's long-term ground lease footprint between the County and the State in Exposition Park. The recommendations for this funding and improvements to the County's Museum have been noticed consistent with applicable County procedure.

The authorization by the Board will delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to execute a funding agreement in the amount of \$3.5 million with the Foundation from Various Second District Capital Improvements (Capital

Project No. 77044), for the Project described above and any other necessary implementing documents.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed Project, to replace a 3,200 square foot Butterfly Pavilion, construct a separate 6,500 square foot one-story building with an educational/community room and office space, and install new landscaping is within classes of projects that have been determined by the State Office of Planning and Research not to have a significant effect on the environment because it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, 15304, and 15311 of the State CEQA Guidelines, as well as the parallel provisions in Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines Appendix G. These classes apply to the demolition and construction of new and replacement small and accessory structures of the same capacity on the same site to serve existing public facilities, minor alternations to land, including new landscaping not involving removal of mature trees, and minor alternation of existing public facilities with negligible or no expansion of use.

The proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place, or unusual circumstances, as there are none. Further, the record indicates that the proposed Project improvements will not touch or impact the 1913 and 1920s Museum buildings and will not have any substantial adverse changes on the significance of the historical resources, or other limiting factors which would make these exemptions inapplicable based upon the proposed Project records.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The Foundation will manage and deliver the proposed Project within its existing contracting policies and procedures, including prevailing wage requirements.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The proposed Project will provide much needed educational programming space for the Museum's annual attendance in excess of 1.2 million visitors including 227,000 students and teachers. During construction, access to the Museum's south and north entrances, including ADA access will be unaffected.

**CONCLUSION**

It is requested that the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, return two certified copies of the Minute Order, and the adopted and stamped Board letter to the Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007 for further processing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Bettison-Varga", written in a cursive style.

DR. LORI BETTISON-VARGA  
Director

LBV:DKM

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Internal Services

BOARD LETTER FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITY PROJECT



February 16, 2016

DEPT NO: 060

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT**

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:**

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR****FY 2015-16****3 - VOTES****SOURCES****USES**

VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS

VARIOUS 2ND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

A01-CP-6014-65099-77044

CAPITAL ASSETS - B &amp; I

DECREASE APPROPRIATION

3,500,000

PROJECT AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

A01-CF-5500-10190

OTHER CHARGES

INCREASE APPROPRIATION

3,500,000

**SOURCES TOTAL****3,500,000****USES TOTAL****3,500,000****JUSTIFICATION**

Reflects the transfer of appropriation from the Various 2nd District Improvements (CP No. 77044) to the Project and Facility Development budget in the amount of \$3.5 million for a funding agreement with Natural History Museum Foundation for the implementation of the Education and Community Facility Project.

**ADOPTED**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Chia-Ann Yen, Manager, CEO

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

*Patrick Ogawa*  
PATRICK OGAWA

**ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER**REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---☐ ACTION☒ RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. 079

BY

DATE

*Lantam*  
Jan. 29, 2016

☒ APPROVED AS REQUESTED☐ APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BY

DATE

*Chia-Ann Yen*  
Feb 1, 2016

SEND 3 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER